

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-23 are pending. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-4 and 16-23 are allowed, and for indicating that claims 9-11, 14 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 5-8, 12 and 13 stand rejected under §102. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under §102(e)

Claims 5-8, 12 and 13 stand rejected under §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,499,478 to Perez. Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims are not taught or suggested by Perez and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Specifically, claim 11 was indicated as allowable. Independent claim 5 has been amended to incorporate the element of claim 11. Claims 12 and 15 have minor amendments for dependency purposes. Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 5 and its dependent claims, including claims 6-8, 12 and 13 are not taught or suggested by Perez.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-10 and 12-23 are allowable, and requests further examination and the issuance of a timely Notice of Allowability for the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that there are any matters that can be resolved by a telephonic interview, the undersigned would welcome said call.

Respectfully submitted:



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